

FROM THE DESK OF

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President/COO

GEORGE'S[®]

INC.

Two of the top issues that have received a lot of attention for the past several months are litter management and dead bird disposal. For years litter has been a valuable by-product and through its use as fertilizer it has helped the cattle business to flourish in western Arkansas & southwestern Missouri. Over the years however, studies indicate that continuous use on the same land can increase the phosphorus levels in the soil to levels higher than annual crops can utilize. These studies indicate that in certain watersheds the excess can dissolve into run-off rainwater and get into the streams creating an imbalance in streams and rivers.

The regulatory agencies, both state and federal, have become involved and are looking at regulating the amount of phos-

phorus that can be applied per acre based on the current level of phosphorus in the soil, the amount necessary for growth of forage and the proximity to certain streams. Our industry is better served to develop voluntary litter management plans and to cooperate with state and federal government in being good stewards of our soil and water rather than waiting for regulation. As most of you know, these voluntary plans are currently being developed.

Once the soil testing is done, we may find that a lot of litter may have to be transported to other parts of the country where fertilizer is not so plentiful and is needed for producing pasture and crops. There are currently some processes being developed to pellet litter making it more cost efficient to transport and easier to handle. These processes also allow for nitrogen or potash to be added making

it a "complete" fertilizer that may be perfect for row crop farmers to use in the mid-west and other farming areas. This may be the win-win solution to getting these nutrients disbursed out of our area and into areas where they are needed.

In England a lot of excess litter is being used as fuel to generate electricity. Currently this process is not competitive with the cost per kilowatt that we pay for our electricity. In the future however, depending on what other alternatives are available, this may be a viable solution to eliminating litter.

Dead bird disposal has always been a liability. Whether you are using an incinerator to burn them or composting them, there is a cost associated with disposal. Some states currently do not allow incineration due to air quality standards and most states have eliminated the use of pits due to the risk of pollution

of the ground water.

As you know, we are evaluating various methods of getting dead birds to a rendering plant. Due to the fact that transporting them is high cost and since the birds themselves produce low value protein, this also is a liability. When you compare the cost of operating a freezer to the cost of operating an incinerator, however, this may be the lowest cost alternative on the farm. Also, as state and federal regulations change, we may find that our list of alternatives will decline. As growers we do have a responsibility to dispose of our dead birds in a legal, environmentally responsible manner.

George's will continue to keep you informed of any new innovations or regulations that relate to litter management and dead bird disposal.

(The Eggstra News continued from page 10)

an egg. Dirty eggs are re-routed automatically back through the washer. The check or crack detector separates the checked eggs from those without a flaw. The system is exceedingly superior to the human eye.

John Lossing is happy to

announce Braums and Quality Foods, as new customers. "We plan to use our new facility to its total potential in making George's and its customers the VERY BEST!"

Our telephone system is expected to be in good working order soon. We have

asked our customers and co-workers to please bear with us.

Casey has been overseeing the total transition during the past several weeks. You could find him on the premises even at 3 AM, checking to make sure the new equip-

ment was operating properly in the Turbo House and that the temperature was satisfactory. He has been right beside each of us, offering his support and guiding the operation through the many obstacles, resulting in a smooth transition. Our hats are off to you Casey!

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EXHIBIT

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